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Comment submitted by Heidi Rogers

Posted by the **Environmental Protection Agency** on Feb 10, 2025

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Comment

Dear Administrator:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) long-awaited interim Cumulative Impacts Framework.

Cumulative Impacts are the risks and impacts caused by multiple pollutants, both in isolation and through their interaction with each other and any social vulnerabilities that exist in a community. These pollutants are usually emitted by multiple sources located within or near a Community. Our community is disproportionately exposed to many harmful chemicals in our homes and workplaces, facilities in our neighborhoods that actively pollute the air and water, and legacy pollution in our community’s water, soil, and food chains. Health stressors that systemic racism and unjust public policies often intensify: barriers to getting good food, existing health conditions, and poor access to health care, all contribute to Cumulative Impacts.

As a nurse in New Mexico I have worked with patients who have long term chronic health issues related to chemical contamination in water and also in the soil and on the food they grow and consume.

We support the work that scientists at EPA are doing to assess and reduce cumulative impacts, now more than ever. It’s an approach that will make people safer and healthier, and for communities like ours it can be a matter of life and death.

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Comment ID
EPA-HQ-OLEM-2024-0360-0014



Tracking Number

m6t-ldgo-nqol

Comment Details

Document Subtype

Public Comment

Received Date

Feb 6, 2025

Postmark Date

Feb 6, 2025

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